

▼  
INFORMATION,  
PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT REFERRALS, AND  
OTHER RESOURCES ARE  
AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY  
FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
INFORMATION AND  
EDUCATION HELPLINE/  
THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION.

800-327-5050  
(TOLL-FREE; MULTI-LINGUAL)  
TTY: 617-536-5872  
WWW.HELPLINE-ONLINE.COM

▼  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
AND STATISTICS ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM:

- Massachusetts Youth Health Survey, October 2002  
[www.state.ma.us/dph/bsas](http://www.state.ma.us/dph/bsas)
- Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey  
[www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/yrbs/01/results.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/yrbs/01/results.pdf)
- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University  
[www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org)
- Monitoring the Future, Overview of Key Findings 2002  
[www.monitoringthefuture.org](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org)
- Office of National Drug Control Policy  
[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)
- Parents. The Anti Drug  
[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America  
[www.drugfreeamerica.org](http://www.drugfreeamerica.org)
- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.health.org](http://www.health.org)

*Be the first to* **TALK WITH YOUR PRE-TEEN**  
*about ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, and other DRUGS*

**INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

▼  
**UNDERSTANDING LAWS ABOUT DRUG USE**

Young people think about “now” more than about “the future.” Knowing the legal consequences may help them avoid tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs. Here are some laws your child should know about (there may be more in your community):

- Giving or selling tobacco to someone under 18 is breaking the law.
- Using alcohol under the age of 21 is breaking the law.
- Using marijuana or any other illicit drug is against the law at any age.
- Bad decisions about alcohol and other drugs can limit future choices—like being able to get a driver’s license, being part of school activities, getting into college, or getting financial aid.
- A criminal record can prevent someone from getting certain types of jobs.
- In Massachusetts, children under age 17 who commit a crime may be sentenced to the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Be sure your child knows that the following actions are illegal:

- Using someone’s ID to buy, or try to buy, alcohol.
- Getting alcohol by asking someone over 21 to buy it.
- Driving in a car where there is unopened alcohol (even if it’s in the trunk) if there is no one over 21 in the car.
- Letting other people drink in the car while you’re driving.
- Giving (as well as selling) drugs to someone.
- Getting a drug from someone but not using it.
- Giving a prescription pill to a friend.